

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03898 310942Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 W
-----040991 010421Z /11-R
R 310900Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0984

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3898

FOR OAKLEY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (LEE KUAN YEW), SN
SUBJECT: WASHINGTON VISIT OF PM LEE

REF: A) STATE 218944, B) SINGAPORE 3798

1. YOUR CABLE ASKS FOR OUR OPINION ON WHAT PM LEE MAY WANT TO TALK ABOUT IN WASHINGTON. DURING MY FIRST CALLS ON THE PM, GOH KENG SWEE AND RAJARATNAM, I ASKED ABOUT ANY OUTSTANDING BILATERAL MATTERS THAT WE SHOULD BE WORKING ON AND NONE OF THEM RESPONDED WITH ANYTHING SPECIFIC. EVEN SO, I WOULD GUESS THAT TWO OR THREE BILATERAL ISSUES MAY COME UP. MOST LIKELY ARE A-4 TRAINING FOR SAF PERSONNEL IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE MORE GENERAL QUESTION OF US PROTECTIONISM, PERHAPS TIED TO THE RECENT AMALGAMATED TEXTILE AND CLOTHING WORKERS COMPLAINT ABOUT ALLEGED GOS EXPORT SUBSIDIES. HE IS LESS LIKELY TO RAISE THE I-HAWK ISSUE AGAIN AND WILL PROBABLY NOT EMBARRASS US BY ASKING WHERE WE STAND ON THE INVESTMENT TREATY DRAFT PROMISED HIM BY THE PRESIDENT DURING HIS LAST VISIT. THE OPIC, TAX DEFERRAL AND SECTION 911 ISSUES SEEM TO HAVE FADED AS ACTIVE CONCERNS, AND THE PROSPECTS OF THE OPIC AND EXIM VISITS TO SINGAPORE SHOULD HAVE REASSURED THE GOS THAT WE ARE INDEED INTERESTED IN PROMOTING US INVESTMENT IN SINGAPORE.

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2. APART FROM THE ABOVE, I THINK YOU ARE CORRECT IN SUGGESTING THAT THE PM WILL WANT A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH HIGH-LEVEL USG OFFICIALS ON REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES. THE LETTER HE RECENTLY SENT TO THE PRESIDENT ON THE CAMP DAVID INITIATIVE ON THE MIDDLE EAST IS A GOOD INDICATION OF HIS CONTINUED AND PERHAPS INCREASING INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENTS WELL OUTSIDE ASEAN. HE IS LIKELY TO BE INTERESTED IN WHAT WE PLAN TO DO TO

SUPPORT THE DOLLAR AND MORE GENERALLY IN OUR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND ENERGY POLICIES. I WOULD EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT THE MOST USEFUL DISCUSSIONS ON BOTH SIDES WOULD BE ON THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA AND HOW IT MAY AFFECT ASEAN. MY TALKS HERE HAVE SHOWN THAT THE PM AND OTHER HIGH GOS OFFICIALS ARE, NOT SURPRISINGLY, DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT HOW ASEAN MEMBERS MAY REACT TO THE POLITICAL SPIN-OFFS FROM THE CHINA/INDOCHINESE QUARRELS. THE PM'S VIEWS ON THIS SHOULD BE WORTH CAREFUL ATTENTION.

3. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A STRONG PITCH FOR YOUR BEST EFFORTS IN GETTING APPOINTMENTS FOR THE PM WITH THE CABINET OFFICIALS MENTIONED IN YOUR CABLE, LEE WILL BE THE FIRST ASEAN HEAD OF GOVERNMENT TO VISIT WASHINGTON AFTER THE US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, WHERE YOU WERE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN DEMONSTRATING TOP-LEVEL US INTEREST IN ASEAN. I DO NOT THINK WE CAN AFFORD TO DIM THE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION MADE BY THE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS BY SHOWING LESS INTEREST IN MEETING WITH ONE OF THE ACKNOWLEDGED SENIOR STATESMEN IN ASEAN. I AM SURE THAT HE EXPECTS TO SEE THE MOMENTUM MAINTAINED AND WILL BE SURPRISED IT IS NOT. HE WILL BE DISAPPOINTED AT NOT SEEING THE PRESIDENT, AND THIS ADDS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS MEETING WITH THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND OTHER TOP US OFFICIALS. YOU MAY RECALL THAT I OFFERED TO HELP WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS VISIT DURING MY CALL ON HIM. I AM SURE THAT EA WILL DO ITS BEST TO WORK OUT A GOOD SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, AND I WILL BE HAPPY TO
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GIVE MY FURTHER SUPPORT TO YOUR EFFORTS.
KNEIP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP03898
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780357-0122
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978083/aaaaacdf.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 711aa45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 218944, 78 SINGAPORE 3798
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1638071
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON VISIT OF PM LEE
TAGS: OVIP, SN, (LEE KUAN YEW)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/711aa45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014